



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Lookout National
Seashore

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Cape Lookout National Seashore News Release

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FIRST KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE NEST AT CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

Student Conservation Association resource assistant Rebecca Witinok- Huber got an unexpected treat during her daily turtle patrol. At 12:30 p.m. on June 12, a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nested on the ocean beach at South Core Banks, the largest of the four barrier islands that make up Cape Lookout National Seashore. SCA Lisa Presley photographed the nesting turtle and the nest was relocated to a location higher on the beach to protect it from flooding.



*SCA Lisa Presley with the nesting Kemp's Ridley
The photograph was taken by SCA Rebecca Witinok-Huber*

Cape Lookout National Seashore averages about 130 sea turtle nests a year. Most of those nests are laid by loggerhead turtles with an occasional green sea turtle nest and very rarely a leatherback turtle nest. This is the first ever Kemp's Ridley nest for the park and only the second Kemp's Ridley nest ever found in North Carolina.

Kemp's Ridleys are the rarest sea turtle species with only around 1,500 nesting females in the world. Most Kemp's Ridleys nest in Mexico or the Texas coast. Any nests on the east coast of the United States are extremely rare.

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